

**IOWA COLLEGE STUDENT AID COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
February 23, 2018**

Members Present:

Janet Adams
Tim Fitzgibbon
Kassidy Krause
Mark Putnam
Doug Shull
Cindy Winckler

Manny Atwood
Rachael Johnson
Katie Mulholland
Herman Quirnbach
Jeremy Varner

Members Absent:

Michael Ash
Jeff Edler

Cecil Dolecheck
Mary Pudenz

Staff Present:

Samita Basnet
Laura Ingleby
Adam Messer
Julie Ntem
Ashley Wendt

Todd Brown
Elizabeth Keest-Sedrel
Karen Misjak
Christina Sibaouih

AG Present:

Emily Willits

Guests Present:

Kimberly Bingaman
Rachel Boon
Angie Carlson
David Fardal

Bridgepoint
Board of Regents
Capri College
Department of Management

Dennis Jones
Sherry Jones
Brian Prescott

NCHEMS
Ashford University
NCHEMS

Call to Order

The Iowa College Student Aid Commission met for a regularly scheduled meeting on February 23, 2018. Commission Chair Adams called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Chair Adams requested to move the Board Structure Committee Report under the Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Commissioner Shull moved to approve the requested agenda amendment. Commissioner Putnam seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Misjak said the Commission continues to work on improving the FAFSA completion initiative. Area Education Agencies (AEAs) are focusing on Postsecondary Readiness and Equity Partnership and working to build equitable capacity across all AEAs. Ms. Misjak shared that this collaboration around FAFSA data allows the Commission to share up to date information through the FAFSA.iowa.gov website. With data sharing agreements signed by all AEAs student level completion reports will be provided to all schools. Ms. Misjak said in turn the schools will perform actionable interventions to attain FAFSA completion goals. Staff is working with the AEA leads to outline training and information to ensure support for the individuals at the schools who are receiving this information understands the reports and know how to work with students and families to increase the FAFSA completion numbers.

Ms. Misjak shared that all of the GEAR UP cohort schools will be attending the annual GEAR UP conference next week. There are 110 attendees registered to date. Ms. Misjak said the first day of the conference will be interest sessions and the second day will be used for collaboration and planning for the 5th year of

the grant. Our vendor, Cambridge Education Services will be there to train on ACT test prep services offered to GEAR UP schools.

Every year during the summer, the Commission hosts a student summit for GEAR UP students to experience a college campus. Ms. Misjak said a Request for Proposal seeking college partners to host an event on their campus has gone out. The summit will be located regional to allow more students to attend. Ms. Misjak added that this is a change from previous years and that staff is planning for four separate locations. Ms. Misjak said this would allow students to connect with current college students to learn about college, discuss college fit and provide opportunities for GEAR UP students to visit one of the colleges of choice.

Ms. Misjak provide an update on the upcoming office location move. She shared that staff have worked with DAS and a Request for Proposals will be issued in the next couple of weeks. At this time, the current lease will be up June 30, 2018. Ms. Misjak said there may be a call for a special meeting to approve the cost of the move as it was not budgeted in the FY 2018 approved budget.

Minutes of Meeting

Motion: Commissioner Atwood moved to approve the meeting minutes for the November 17, 2017 Commission Meeting. Commissioner Mulholland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

NCHEMS Report

Ms. Misjak introduced Dr. Brian Prescott to provide an overview of the Restructure and Roadmap Report & Recommendations that The National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) prepared at the request of the Commissioners. Mr. Dennis Jones from NCHEMS also helped with the presentation.

Dr. Prescott shared that data and information was collected from public sources, stakeholder interviews, Commission staff, as well as Commissioners and they evaluated the services that the Commission provides to Iowans. Dr. Prescott said Iowa College Aid has a strong emphasis in college going culture

and that currently the Commission has been able to sustain their services by non-state appropriated funds. With its Postsecondary expertise, Iowa College Aid has the opportunity to do work that no other entity in the state can. Dr. Prescott said the administration of the state grant programs is a key part of the business that the Commission provides. As well as, the less widely known role that Iowa College Aid plays in Postsecondary Registration; in particular the interstate reciprocity agreements that are becoming more important with the growth and interest in online education. This is something that Iowa College has been doing without receiving much in the way of state appropriations. There is a growing need for a research role related to college affordability. Mr. Jones said all policy in the state of Iowa is tied to types of institutions and that the programs are very sector driven. There is a role that is missing that takes the student role and how it works across all sectors of higher education. Dr. Prescott said Iowa College Aid has a role to play in college outreach, however feels there is a lack of coordination. The consultants then responded to questions from Commissioners.

Dr. Prescott said the first recommendation is to recreate Iowa College Aid with a new name and revised mission. The name should convey the agency's essential position as an entity that helps steer state policy toward the achievement of state goals, provides critical, unbiased analytical support for policymakers and practitioners, addresses issues that fall in the cracks between educational sectors and between education and workforce, and addresses issues from a student-based perspective rather than an institutional one.

Dr. Prescott said the second recommendation is to align Iowa College Aid's structure with the redefined mission. Dr. Prescott recommended reviewing the current make up of board members. He commented he was impressed with the current staff at the Commission however feels there is not a sufficient capacity in the research division. Dr. Prescott recommended reviewing the legal structure and looking into becoming a public non-profit corporation/authority.

Dr. Prescott said the third recommendation is to provide necessary financing for the redesigned agency to accomplish the missions specified in the first recommendation. The core functions need to be funded from state appropriations and the Commission should seed an endowment trust with remaining funds from Great Lakes.

Dr. Prescott said the fourth recommendation is to simplify and consolidate aid programs that have minimal impact, and update remaining aid programs so that eligibility requirements are not based on sector attendance. Dr. Prescott said the Commission should eliminate the low participation programs and consolidate similarly structured, but otherwise sector-specific programs.

Dr. Prescott recommends emphasizing student success and meeting workforce needs from a position of independence and impartiality. The Commission should have an essential administrative role in state aid programs and postsecondary registration funded by state appropriations. Research capacity should be increased to allow the Commission to do cross-sectoral research and analysis. Coordination of college outreach efforts to high school students and adults should be evaluated and the Commission should look into being supplemented by sustainable independent funding and active grant seeking for these efforts.

Commission Chair Adams said the committee will meet and discuss the recommendations that were presented and then report back to the Commission. Chair Adams requested that all Commissioners look deeper at the report and be ready for future discussion.

Admin Rules

Mr. Brown said the amendments to Chapter 1 are proposed as a result of changes made to the Bylaws during the September 15, 2017 Commission meeting to conform Administrative Rules to the change.

Motion: Commissioner Fitzgibbon moved to adopt amendments to Administrative Rules Chapter 1 – "Organization and Operation". Commissioner Atwood seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Brown said the amendments to Chapter 12 reflect current policies and processes and incorporate clarifications with respect to SARA-approved schools.

Motion: Commissioner Mulholland moved to adopt amendments to Administrative Rules Chapter 21 – "Approval of

Postsecondary Schools". Commissioner Shull seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Brown said the amendments to Chapter 1 and 17 reflect changes to Iowa Code enacted during the 2017 legislative session by House File 642. In Chapter 1 amendments update the structure of the Commission board to reflect statutory changes. The changes in Chapter 17 rescind administrative rules for the Barber and Cosmetology Arts and Sciences Tuition Grant, which was eliminated in House File 642.

Motion: Commissioner Johnson moved to propose amendments to Administrative Rules Chapter 1 – "Organization and Operations" and Chapter 17 – "Barber and Cosmetology Arts and Sciences Tuition Grant Program". Commissioner Varner seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

GEAR UP Iowa Evaluation Advisor Contract Extension

Ms. Sibaouih said this is the third extension request for the GEAR UP Iowa Evaluation Advisor contract.

Motion: Commissioner Shull moved to authorized the Executive Director to enter into a one-year extension contract, for outside evaluation advisory services for the GEAR UP Iowa Project with the National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP). Commissioner Fitzgibbon seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Audit and Finance Committee

Commissioner Fitzgibbon said the committee met and discussed two State Audit findings relating to how mail is handled in regards to accounting documents and minor errors on financial balances. Commissioner Fitzgibbon said the committee is working with staff on updating how the financials are presented to the Commission. The concentration is on providing a snapshot that makes sense to the board. Commissioner Putnam complimented staff on the work they have done with these new documents. Commissioner Fitzgibbon said new reports will be provided for the May Commission meeting.

Commissioner Shull departed the meeting.

Legislative Committee Report

Mr. Brown provided an overview of the current bills that staff are tracking that relate to the Commission. Commissioner Quirnbach asked if any data analysis is done to determine the continuing need to support training teachers and the effectiveness of the program. Mr. Brown said surveys have gone out in the past however; there is no clear data as to whether it keeps teachers in the state. Commissioner Quirnbach said the Commission needs to have more research capacity.

Register Renewal of Ashford University

Ms. Small provided an overview of Ashford University history in the state of Iowa and that it currently has 1,102 Iowa students. In response to a question from Commissioner Fitzgibbon, Ms. Small said if the Commission does not approve the registration for Ashford University, they would be forced to cease operating in Iowa and providing instruction to Iowans. Since Ashford does not use a traditional academic calendar, a forced cessation of instruction would need to be coordinated, with Ashford's help, to minimize outstanding debt owed to the school for courses students could not finish. Ms. Small also noted that Iowa students who could not finish their Ashford programs would not be eligible for Federal Stafford Loan Forgiveness. Commissioner Putnam asked about a recent report from Veterans Affairs regarding state hopping. Ashford University said they have strong relationships in every state they are in and assured Commissioners that they do not state hop. In response to a question from Commissioner Quirnbach, Ms. Small said Administrative Rules allows staff the discretion to limit or revoke registration at any time.

Motion: Commissioner Mulholland moved to approve Ashford University for a two-year registration renewal term that begins retroactively on November 20, 2017 through November 20, 2019, with the following stipulation: Ashford University (the University) must 1. Substantively respond to staff's forthcoming

written request for information about its current operations in areas that include recruiting and marketing, admissions, and financial aid administration, and 2. Cooperate in resolving any issues staff identify as a result of the data submission. Details of the data to be requested of the University, including timeframes for the University's response, will be identified and transmitted to the University in separate correspondence from staff. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion which passed by roll call vote with Commissioners Janet Adams, Rachael Johnson, Kassidy Krause, Katie Mulholland and Jeremy Varner voting for and Commissioners Manny Atwood, Tim Fitzgibbon and Mark Putnam voting against.


Staff Report

Ms. Small provided a report on Postsecondary Registration Approvals as well as Exemption and SARA approvals, and provided a list of Exemption Applications that are currently under review.


Ms. Basnet provided an update on the FY 2018 year-to-date financials.

Ms. Keest-Sedrel provided an overview of the FY 2017 Annual Report.

Adjourned at 12:28 p.m.



Janet Adam, Chair



Katie Mulholland, Vice Chair